

REQUESTED

Application No. 10/588,470

Attorney Docket No. M04B107

Proposed Claim Amendments dated January 24, 2012

- Reply to Notice of Panel Decision from Pre-Appeal Brief Review dated December 30, 2011

PATENT**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: 10/588,470

Examiner: Melody M. Burch

Applicant(s): Barrie D. Brewster

Art Unit: 3657

Title: VIBRATION DAMPER

Confirmation No.: 8791

Filed: May 17, 2007

Atty. Docket No.: M04B107

Examiner Melody M. Burch
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PROPOSED CLAIM AMENDMENTS FOR CONSIDERATION

Dear Examiner Burch:

Pursuant to our telephonic conversation on January 24, 2012, attached hereto below is a list of proposed claim amendments aiming to place the application in condition of allowance. In the proposed amendments, claims 16-30 and 34-38 are pending, whereas claims 1-5 and 31-33 are cancelled.

Claims 18, 19, and 35-38 are allowed in accordance with the Notice of Panel Decision from Pre-Appeal Brief Review dated December 30, 2011. In the proposed amendments, claim 16 is rewritten in independent form. Claims 17, 20-30, and 34 depend from claim 16. As a result, Applicant believes that the proposed amendments now place claims 16, 17, 20-30, and 34 in condition of allowance.

Applicant respectfully requests for Examiner to enter the proposed claim amendments by Examiner's Amendments, and allow the present application with the proposed pending claims.

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Should Examiner deem that any further clarification is desirable, Examiner is

invited to telephone the undersigned at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Cancelled)
15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A vibration damper for inhibiting transfer of vibration to an apparatus during the evacuation thereof by a pump, the damper comprising:
a bellows arrangement for isolating from the ambient atmosphere, fluid drawn from the apparatus by the pump, and

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means for limiting axial compression of the bellows arrangement during use of the damper,

wherein the damper is axially pre-compressed by means for limiting axial extension of the bellows arrangement, but simultaneously permitting axial compression of the same,

The vibration damper according to claim 1 wherein the means for limiting axial compression comprises resistive means arranged under tension in such a way that when the damper is subjected to an external axial force tending to compress the bellows arrangement, the resistive means is subjected to a tensile force, the resistance to extension of the resistive means opposing axial compression of the bellows arrangement,

17. (Previously Presented) The vibration damper according to claim 16 wherein the bellows arrangement extends about an axis and the resistive means is arranged about said axis.

18. (Previously Presented) A vibration damper for inhibiting transfer of vibration to an apparatus during the evacuation thereof by a pump, the damper comprising a bellows arrangement for isolating from the ambient atmosphere, fluid drawn from the apparatus by the pump, wherein the bellows arrangement extends about an axis, and resistive means arranged about said axis and under tension so that when the damper is subjected to an external axial force tending to compress the bellows arrangement, the resistive means is subjected to a tensile force, the resistance to extension of the resistive means opposing axial compression of the bellows arrangement, wherein the damper is axially pre-

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compressed by means for limiting axial extension of the bellows arrangement, but

simultaneously permitting axial compression of the same.

19. (Previously Presented) The vibration damper according to claim 18 wherein the resistive means is arranged about the damper.

20. (Previously Presented) The vibration damper according to claim 16 wherein the resistive means is arranged about the pump.

21. (Previously Presented) The vibration damper according to claim 20 wherein the resistive means is attached to the housing of the pump.

22. (Previously Presented) The vibration damper according to claim 16 wherein the resistive means is arranged about the bellows arrangement.

23. (Previously Presented) The vibration damper according to claim 16 wherein the resistive means comprises a plurality of resistive elements.

24. (Previously Presented) The vibration damper according to claim 23 wherein each resistive element comprises a metal coil tension spring.

25. (Previously Presented) The vibration damper according to claim 23 wherein each of the resistive elements is inclined relative to a plane extending orthogonally to said

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axis.

26. (Previously Presented) The vibration damper according to claim 23 wherein each resistive element is attached at one end to a first radially extending flange and at the other end to a second radially extending flange, the first and second radially extending flanges being axially separated.

27. (Previously Presented) The vibration damper according to claim 26 wherein said one end of the resistive element is attached to the first radially extending flange via a support member.

28. (Previously Presented) The vibration damper according to claim 27 wherein the support member extends through an aperture in the second radially extending flange.

29. (Previously Presented) The vibration damper according to claim 27 wherein the other end of the resistive element is attached to the second radially extending flange.

30. (Previously Presented) The vibration damper according to claim 27 comprising means for contacting the support member upon rotation of one flange relative to the other to inhibit relative rotational movement therebetween.

31. (Canceled)

32. (Cancelled)

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33. (Cancelled)

34. (Previously Presented) The vibration damper according to claim 16 wherein the resistive means is arranged about the damper.

35. (Previously Presented) The vibration damper according to claim 19 wherein the resistive means is arranged about the pump.

36. (Previously Presented) The vibration damper according to claim 35 wherein the resistive means is attached to the housing of the pump.

37. (Previously Presented) The vibration damper according to claim 36 wherein the resistive means is arranged about the bellows arrangement.

38. (Previously Presented) The vibration damper according to claim 37 wherein the resistive means comprises a plurality of resistive elements.